

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME III.

FORT WAYNE, IND., AUGUST, 1891.

NUMBER 8.

THE GREAT CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR AT MINNEAPOLIS.

(CONCLUDED.)

It is proper that we should say a few words concerning the song and praise services, and the addresses of the convention. The singing was grand. It filled our soul with rapture and delight. The choir of over one thousand trained voices led the singing and these were joined by that vast assembly of many more thousand voices. The hymns of praise came rolling down the archways and galleries of that great hall "as the voice of many waters." At repeated intervals of each session the sweet and soul-stirring voice of America's singing evangelist, Ira D. Sankey was heard in some of his choice solos, while the assembly was asked to join in the chorus. We had never heard Mr. Sankey before. We esteemed it a great privilege to be permitted once to see and hear the man, who has for nearly a quarter of a century been singing his spiritual songs for the two continents, and whose voice shall be heard singing on while time shall last, and throughout eternity. His favorite hymns at the convention were his "Ninety and Nine," "Throw Out the Life Line," "At the Cross," and "Bringing in the Sheaves." The singing was well nigh boundless and endless. On the railway trains, street cars, on the streets, at the hotels, at the Hall, coming and going, everywhere and all the time, the Endeavorers were in the spirit of song.

The addresses were spirited, instructive, and inspiring. The speakers were representative men from the different branches of the Christian church. The address which was perhaps of the greatest and most special interest to the delegates was the Annual Address of the President of the United Society, "Father Endeavorer" Clark. The subject of his address was "Fidelity and Fellowship." Fidelity to Christ, to the Church Universal, and to the local church. Fellowship, the Communion of Saints. "All ye are brethren." He announced his topic as the Society's motto for the coming year.

The open conference meetings were also very interesting. Many different methods of work were suggested, and encouraging reports were made of what had been accomplished by local societies.

A society in Minnesota reported that they had maintained their church and church services for a year while without a pastor.

A society from N. Y. was reported as being the back bone of the Sunday services, and did so much work that the pastor could have a vacation for the whole year round. Such societies would be a great blessing to some churches.

Miss Slocum from Iowa, reported that during their pastors sickness, their society brought one hundred and five young people into their church.

At Panesville, Ohio, the Christian Endeavor societies closed every saloon in the town.

Many other like interesting reports were made, but we have not space to speak of more.

We are rejoiced that it was our privilege to be in that convention, and to be identified with this great movement. Our lot was never before cast among a happier, more courteous and Christian-like people, than it was while at the Minneapolis convention. A policeman of the city said, "I never saw such people. I wish they would always stay." The street railway conductors said, "They never before handled such a large crowd of people, and that they never handled any crowd with so much ease, and never saw people so obliging, so fraternal, and so honest. No dead-beats among them." Here there was an open exhibition of the truth, and power of the religion of Jesus Christ. No drunkenness, no profanity, no rowdiness, no rioting.

Since our return home we have been asked repeatedly for the facts of the occurrence on the second evening of the convention, when the city was threatened with one of those destructive electric storms so common in the Northwest. The Daily Journal on the following day gave a description of the occurrence in these words:

"Probably not one of the hundreds of Christian Endeavorers who entered the auditorium this morning for the sunrise prayer meeting, failed to call to remembrance the strangely tragic scene which marked the evening when they had last been in the building, when, without warning and in the midst of a terrific thunder storm the great building passed into deepest gloom, and for an instant nothing but the pelting patter of myriad rain drops—unless it

was the fast beating of one's own heart—disturbed the wonderful quiet of the room. No one who sat in that Egyptian darkness illumined only by the spectral flashes of the lightning high over head and disturbed for once by no sound but the angry artillery of God, will ever forget the strangeness of the scene. When the sweet words of the old hymn, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds," rose above the noise of the tempest, while still one could not see his nearest neighbor, the effect was indescribable—it was as if some stream of unseen light, a light of spirit rather than sense was flooding the night-encompassed hall and shining in the hearts of those who may have felt the strange awfulness of the hour or who may have been thinking that other dread thought—what will be the end if there comes a panic?

But the lights came back, the voices were heard, the songs were sung, the night was passed, and when the dawn came the Endeavorers were ready to put the scene away in their minds to be recalled for a lifetime and to be told to generations to come."

The Rev. Mr. Patterson, of Topeka, Kansas, in his address—the next day, said, "A few things have happened at this convention that a man might come 10,000 miles to see. One, the scene of last night when the lights went out. If that had been at a theater you would have seen the people rushing over one another, and crushing one another, in their efforts to get out. But what did we do? We sang,

"Blest be the tie that binds."

Such an experience was never witnessed since the day of Pentecost."

We are certain we never witnessed such a scene and such confidence, and such composure. The Psalmist's words were verified unto us, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil."

This article might be prolonged twice and thrice its present length and then one half of the story of the convention would not be told. The next convention will be held at New York City, in July, '92.

After the adjournment of the convention we tarried with our friends at Minneapolis for awhile and saw the lakes and parks, and the beautiful homes and churches and public buildings of the "Twin Cities." Too much can not be said in praise of the enterprise

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REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers; REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

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and beauty of these growing cities.

On our way home we enjoyed the companionship of a happy band of Endeavorers as far as Chicago. Among them a returned missionary from Persia, who gave us a lecture of an hour or more upon the customs of the Persians, and the work of the Lord among that people. God speed on the work of Christian Endeavor. May it hasten on that blessed day when the Master Kingdom shall come, and when all the nations of the earth shall be given unto the Lord for his possessions.

We are anxious that this movement shall meet with favor among our Reformed Churches. There should be a Christian Endeavor Society in every Reformed Church. May our pastors see to it that their young people will be organized, and if there are no young people, organize a society among the older members. The pastor was the only Reformed Minister who spoke upon the floor of the Minneapolis Convention. There may have been others of our pastors present, but if so we did not learn of them.

THE GOSPEL FOR ALL NATIONS.

Sabbath Aug. 9th, was observed as a Missionary and Consecration day at Grace Church. In the morning the pastor spoke on the topic, "The Gospel for All Nations." It is said, that this is the era of Missions. There is no doubt more being done to-day to send the gospel to "the regions beyond" than in any former period in the history of the church. And yet only a very limited portion of God's people have imbibed this spirit of Missions. The church at large is yet insensible to its opportunities and its responsibilities. Very few have an intelligent conception of the destitution in the "world-wide field." Some even seem to think that the work of evangelizing the world is going on so rapidly, and is so nearly completed, that one might awake any morning and find that the whole world had been brought to Christ.

Some are even already beginning to sing the hallelujahs of a final triumph. Let us not be so prematurely ecstatic, and so self-deceived. To know the facts is not only to be oppressed with a great burden for souls, but the church needs to mantle her face in blushes and in shame.

The present population of the world

is estimated at 1,500,000,000. Three times every century death sweeps the entire population of the globe into eternity. Since the Christian era sixty generations have lived and died, and yet, of this vast throng, countless millions never heard of Jesus of Nazareth. There are to-day vast, vast regions beyond, unexplored and unsupplied. The "Walled Kingdom," China, has a population of nearly 400,000,000, more than six times as large as the population of the United States. China has only 800 missionaries. One missionary to half a million of people. India has a population of 250,000,000 to 300,000,000. One missionary to about 400,000. Siam has from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000, with but a score of men and women laboring among them. The Dark Continent, "Africa," has according to the most recent estimates at least 200,000,000, people who never saw the Bible or heard the first proclamation of the good news. To make the record complete millions and millions more must be added, who inhabited the islands of the sea and other portions of the Eastern Continent, who are to this day without one ray of light. The evangelization of the world is not yet fairly begun. The story of the destitution and wretched condition of these millions of our fellow mortals, is distressing in the extreme. They have fallen below the level of the brutes, but their salvation is yet a possibility.

One of the encouraging aspects of this whole work lies in the fact that with the exception of a few small inland countries of Asia, the whole world is now open for the Gospel. From every country comes the cry, "Come over and help us!" How is it that the church can remain so insensible to her duties, and opportunities, and to the distressing condition of the unsaved millions. God in His providence has opened the way, will not the church now respond and occupy the field? The church seems to be too carnal. She does not delight in this great work of the Master. But how shall we at last answer to God for our lethargy and carnal ease? More means are spent for useless luxuries by the church than for the work of missions. "A deified appetite outranks a crucified Christ."

There is wanting also on the part of the church, a concentration of effort and purpose. The church is not only too willing to misdirect and mispend her means, but also her time and efforts. The energies of the church are misdirected and her very life paralyzed by feuds and schisms, and a devotion to the world. If the nations of the earth are ever to be brought to Christ, the church must awaken to a higher sense of responsibility, and of consecration to the

Lord and His work. Consecrated laborers and consecrated supporters are the need of the day. Every church, every pastor, and every child of the Master should have a whole-hearted interest in this great and blessed work.

Grace Church should rejoice in having the privilege of entering this field of labor in the Lord's vineyard. A plan has been adopted by which each member of the church can contribute to this cause as the heart may prompt and the Holy Spirit direct. On Missionary Day the pastor announced that a box had been placed at the entrance of the church, where on that day, and on each Sabbath, offerings may be deposited for foreign missions. The last Sabbath of each month is designated as a day of consecration, when the pastor will call special attention to this subject, and it is hoped every member of the church will bring some consecration offering for foreign missions. On the first Sabbath when the missionary box was placed in the church the offerings amounted to \$4.14. This was a very encouraging beginning. If even the monthly receipts should be no more, Grace church would, during the year, do a commendable work in this special department of the Master's kingdom. The Visitor will make reports of these receipts from time to time, and also of the growth and development of the spirit of missions in the church. Let us rejoice that we may have part and lot in the work of sending the gospel to all nations, "The greatest work in the world."

It is due to the activity and consecration of our young people that the church shall have a special day to receive consecrated offerings for foreign missions. The bringing of such an offering to the Lord is now a part of the monthly consecration service of the Young People's Society, held on the last Sabbath of each month.

The hearts of our young people are enlisted in this work, and we hope they may be an inspiration to us all. The harvest is ripe. The Lord has set before us an open door, let us enter while it is yet day, for the night cometh, when no man can work.

The anniversary of the Orphans Home will be held Sept. 1st. Rev. Dr. Hibschan, of Tiffin, Ohio, has been invited to deliver an address in the English language. Every member of Grace Church should furnish something for the anniversary. Meats, cakes, etc., will be very acceptable.



August 19.

Grace Church aboard for Roma City.

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August 19.

Grace Church out for a trip on Sylvan Lake at Rome City.

BRIEF AND PERSONALS.

Willis Souder was at Island Park during the Assembly.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Archer will be at Rome City from August 17th to the 21st.

Miss Parsons, from Boston, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Vordermark.

John Vordermark, Jr., is visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Grisso at Springfield, Ohio.

Fred Cook has returned from the springs near Indianapolis and looks hale and hearty.

Harlon J. Sponseller and Emma F. Coons, of Dixon, Ohio, were married at the parsonage August 4.

Mrs. George Soliday is visiting with her parents in Fairfield Co., Ohio. George says, "Its awful lonesome."

August 13th the pastor attended the funeral of the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Cousar, 205 East Wayne street.

Miss Lillie Kepler was home from Chicago during the first of July. We were glad to meet her at our services.

The attendance at the Island Park Assembly was very large this season, and the program was one of the best.

Mrs. Zartman and Josie have returned and report a pleasant visit at home and with other friends at Canton, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. John Horn will soon remove to their new home near the Feeble Minded School. That part of city is building up very rapidly.

Annual excursion to Rome City Wednesday, Aug. 19th, promises to be well patronized. Every person is going, and every person will have a good time.

Mrs. Bacher and son, of Nottawa, Mich., were in the city visiting friends during the first part of last month. We were glad to see them at our services both morning and evening, July 5.

Mr. Valentine Monn, had the Pastor's horse in charge while he was away on his vacation. The horse must have received good treatment for it always wants to turn the corner when going out on the road north of the city.

Secure your tickets for the excursion to Rome City, Aug. 19th. Adult tickets \$1.00. Children's tickets 50 cents. All excursion tickets must be exchanged at the depot before taking the train. Train leaves Pennsylvania depot at 8 a.m. Returns at 7:30 p. m. and 11:30 p. m.

Arrangements have been made for the members and friends of the Salem Reformed church at the Dutch Ridge, to accompany the excursion to Rome City, Aug. 19. They will take the train at Hometown at 8:30 a. m. Fare for adults, \$1; children, 50 cents. The people of the Salem church and community should avail themselves of this opportunity to go to Island Park.

The pastor and wife recently spent an afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Aristide Grosjean, at Wallen. We were delighted with our visit, and were only sorry that we could not remain longer. Mr. and Mrs. Grosjean have a very pleasant home in this little village six miles north of the city. The Grosjean Bros. are doing a thriving business at this place in the manufacture of lumber and tile.

The monthly meeting of the Ladies Missionary Society was held Thursday afternoon, August 6. While the attendance was not so large the interest was very good, and the ladies present gave evidence of a wide awake interest in the cause of missions. The next meeting will be held the first Thursday in September, in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. We hope to have a large attendance and an interesting meeting. Every one welcome.

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**Y. P. S. C. E. PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS
 AND LEADERS.**

Aug. 16—God's care for our daily
 needs. Matt. 6: 25-33; Luke 22: 35.
 Etta Souder.

Aug. 23—Seeking the best things.
 John 6: 27; I. Kings 3: 11-13. Lillie
 Walters.

Aug. 30—Consecration meeting. The
 parting of the two ways. John 7:
 40-44; 11: 45-46; 7: 12; 6: 66. Katie
 Walters.

Sept. 6—How can we show that we
 are God's children? John 8: 31; 15:
 1-8. Anna Vordermark.

Sept. 13—Are we blind also? 9; 40,
 41; II Cor. 4; 4: Rev. 8: 17, 18. Kate
 Vordermark.

Sept. 20—The Shepherd Lord. His
 Faithfulness, Tenderness, Strength.
 John 10: 27, 28; Isa. 40: 4-11. Lillie
 Vordermark.

Sept. 27—Consecration meeting.
 Sowing the seed. Eccl. 11: 6; Isa. 32:
 20; John 4: 36. Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

The following resolution was adopted
 by the Consistory at its monthly meet-
 ing, August 3rd.

Resolved, That the names of all ap-
 plicants for membership in Grace
 Church shall be announced at a service
 of the church one week prior to the
 time appointed for the reception of
 members. If there shall be no remon-
 strances and after being duly approved
 by the Consistory, the applicants may
 be received into full membership of the
 church at the time appointed.

Rev. C. F. Kriete, of Louisville, Ky.,
 called at the parsonage Aug. 6th. The
 readers of the VISITOR will be glad to
 learn that the Reverend and family are
 quite well, and are well pleased with
 their new home and field of labor.

The children's tickets for the excu-
 sion will be designated by cutting off
 one corner from the regular full fare
 ticket. Those selling tickets will
 note this fact.

The Christian World of August 13th
 contains the article on the Minneapolis
 Convention, published in the July issue
 of the VISITOR.

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